

Many congratulations on holding the second International Education Symposium of the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship, University of Guelph-Humber.

I was delighted to learn that the focus of this symposium would be on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, under the theme “Peace, Dignity and Equality,” and I am thrilled by the thought of students coming together from different parts of the globe to present their research and engage in discussion on Soka education.

What excites me is the anticipation that this symposium will become an important milestone in your steady and dedicated efforts to help construct a future characterized by mutual respect among all people: a future in which we are able to transcend differences and share in a sense of boundless, fruitful hope.

Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the founder of Soka education, described education as the work of elevating the personal qualities of the individual to enhance the capacities for coexistence and coprosperity.

It is my fervent wish that as well as serving to promote global citizenship education, this symposium will mark a bold and significant step forward in the creation of peace based on the philosophy of life’s inherent dignity.

I offer my heartfelt prayers and best wishes for the grand success of the symposium, as well as for the good health and continued flourishing of the eminent scholars in attendance, including Dr. Paul Sherman, Director of the Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship, the participating young global citizens, and all who have worked so hard to bring this meaningful symposium to fruition.

Daisaku Ikeda

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